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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Teng Soon Wee et al.  
Serial No.: 09/332,756  
Filed: 14 June 1999  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING ABLATION-FREE MARKING ON HARD DISK MEDIA  
Docket No.: 16864-0013  
Examiner: Mr. Jonathan Johnson      Group A.U.: 1725  
Last Office Action: 28 August 2001      Paper No.: 9

Honorable Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT

In response to the Office Action of 28 August 2001, please amend the above-entitled application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

5      1 (Amended). A laser apparatus for marking visible surface deformations on the surface of a multi-layered ~~workpiece~~ <sup>hard disk</sup> including an upper carbon layer, at least one intermediate metallic layer, and a lower metallic substrate, comprising:

10      (a) a laser generator for generating an unconditioned output laser beam;

15      (b) a beam conditioner responsive to said output laser beam including (i) a beam expander operative to generate an expanded laser beam and (ii) a beam collimator for collimating said beam;

    (c) a variable beam attenuator responsive to said expanded collimated beam and operative to generate a collimated conditioned marking beam;

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